



Petition of

and

to the

Mayor and Common  
Council of the  
City of Seattle

Pet. of Chinese Community  
for permission for fire-  
works display re Chinese  
new year. -1884-

TO THE HONOURABLE MAYOR AND COMMON COUN-  
CIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE:

YOUR PETITIONERS

*Wah Ching & Co Chinese Residents*

IN THEIR OWN BEHALF AND IN BEHALF OF THOUSAND CHINESE RESIDENTS OF  
THE CITY OF SEATTLE RESPECTFULLY REPRESENT TO YOUR HONOURABLE BODY:

THAT COMMENCING ON THE 26TH DAY OF JANUARY 1884 AND CONTINUING FOR  
ONE WEEK THEREAFTER WILL BE THE CHINESE NEW YEAR, THE GREAT NATIONAL  
HOLIDAY OF THE CHINESE EMPIRE AND A HOLIDAY UNIVERSALLY OBSERVED BY  
THE CHINESE THROUGHOUT ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD:

THAT THE FIRING OF FIRE CRACKERS AND THE EXPLODING OF CHINESE  
BOMBS CONSTITUTES ONE OF THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE  
SAID HOLIDAY BY THE CHINESE AND IS AN IMPORTANT AND ESSENTIAL PART  
THEREOF: THAT AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR THERE IS NO DANGER WHATEVER OF  
FIRE FROM THE FIRING OF THE SAID FIRE CRACKERS, BOMBS AND EXPLOSIVES,  
AND THAT IF YOUR HONOURABLE BODY SHALL BE PLEASED TO ALLOW YOUR PETI-  
TIONERS THE PRIVILEGE HEREIN PRAYED FOR DURING THE SAID TIME, THE  
GREATEST CARE WILL BE MAINTAINED BY THEM AGAINST ANY POSSIBLE DANGER  
OF THE STARTING OF FIRES BY REASON THEREOF; AND IF YOUR HONOURABLE  
BODY SHALL DEEM IT BEST TO EMPLOY DURING THE SAID TIME SPECIAL POLICE  
OR WATCHMAN WHOSE SOLE DUTY IT SHALL BE TO MORE CAREFULLY GUARD  
AGAINST THE STARTING OF FIRES BY REASON OF SO CELEBRATING THE SAID  
HOLIDAY THE ENTIRE EXPENSE AND WAGES OF THE SAID OFFICERS WILL BE BORN  
BY YOUR PETITIONERS:

THAT IN ALL OF THE OTHER CITIES OF THE PACIFIC COAST WHERE CHINESE  
RESIDENTS CONSTITUTE ANY CONSIDERABLE PORTION OF THE POPULATION OF THE  
CITY AND WHERE SIMILAR CITY ORDINANCES PROHIBITING THE FIRING OF FIRE  
CRACKERS ARE IN FORCE IT IS USUAL AND CUSTOMARY WITHOUT EXCEPTION TO  
GRANT, UNDER RESTRICTIONS, AND WITH SUCH PROVISOS AS THE COMMON COUN-

CIL OF THE SAID CITIES SEE FIT TO IMPOSE, THE PRIVILEGES PRAYED FOR  
DURING THE CONTINUANCE OF THE SAID HOLIDAY:

WHEREFORE YOUR PETITIONERS PRAY THAT YOUR HONOURABLE BODY WILL  
PERMIT THEM, DURING THE CONTINUANCE OF THE SAID CHINESE NEW YEAR, AND  
BETWEEN THE 26TH DAY OF JANUARY 1884 AND THE <sup>January</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> DAY OF ~~FEBRUARY~~ 1884  
TO FIRE AND EXPLODE FIRE CRACKERS AND CHINESE BOMBS AND OTHER EXPLO-  
SIVES WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF THE SAID CITY OF SEATTLE, WITHOUT MA-  
KING YOUR PETITIONERS LIABLE IN ANY WAY TO PROSECUTION THEREFOR.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS WILL EVER PRAY &C &C &C .

DATED AT THE CITY OF SEATTLE

JANUARY 25TH 1884.

Wa Chong  
Ah Sing  
Lye Hee  
Chin Guan  
Liu Sing  
Ye Lee  
Woo Geun  
Kung Chung  
Rung Tai